(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(viii) Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

Requirement of LPG

†2449. SHR1 JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment with regard to monthly requirement of LPG in various States particularly in Delhi at present;

(b) the status of their supply; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to meet the requirement of LPG in various parts of the country particularly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHR1 DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including Delhi and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 9394 and 538 TMTs (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country and in Delhi respectively during the period April, 2007 - February, 2008 as against 8861 and 514 TMTs respectively during the corresponding period of 2006-07.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country, including the State in Delhi due to a combination of factors *viz.,* reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country including Delhi. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day-to-day basis and corrective action is being taken wherever required.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.